[Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.]

Teak purchased from the Forest Department by other Departments.

116. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of teak purchased by Government Departments like the P. W. D. and the Maramat, from the depôts of the Forest Department during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097? If there was a decrease in 1096 and 1097, how is it accounted for?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The quantities of teak timber purchased from the depôts of the Forest Department by other departments during the years 1095, 1096 and 1097 were as follow:

1095—30,432·685 cubic feet.
1096—60,691·447 cubic feet.
1097—40,759·031 cubic feet.

The answer to the latter part of the question does not arise.

Purchase of Teak from Private Agencies.

117. MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): (*a*) Did the Departments of Government like the P. W. D. and the Maramat buy teak from private merchants in 1097?

(*b*) If so, have the Government sanctioned such purchases?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), the question does not arise

Memorial of the General Secretary, Sackaravar Sangham.

118. MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether final orders have been passed by them on the suggestions made in the memorial submitted to Government on the 4th November, 1918, by the General Secretary of the South Travancore Sackaravar Sangham?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): May I know what the final orders passed by Government are?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The memorial was recorded.

Fee Concessions in Colleges.

119. MR. T. LAKSHMANA PILLAI (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether fee concessions are allowed in the Government Colleges in Trivandrum for the Sambavar students, irrespective of their religious faith?

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(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether students belonging to the depressed classes and the students belonging to the Mahomedan community are granted the same fee concessions in H. H. the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) Mahomedans alone are allowed half-fee concession in His Highness the Maha Raja's College.

Employment of Excise Staff on the Frontier.

120. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the large Excise staff posted on the frontier is not specially intended to prevent malpractices in regard to toddy smuggling also?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Excise staff posted at the frontier is bound to discharge with equal alacrity all the duties devolving on it under the Abkari, Tobacco, Salt and Customs Regulations and Rules.

Abkari Regulation.

121. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any amendment to Section 28 of the Abkari Regulation has been recommended by the Excise Commissioner, and if so, when?

(*b*) In what stage is the question of amendment now?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No such recommendation has been made by the Excise Commissioner.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) the question does not arise.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the member be pleased to say whether the Law Member did not promise during the discussion of the motion for the reduction of Sub-Inspectors that the question of the amendment of Section 28 of the Abkari Regulation was being considered.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He might have said so. I do not remember.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does not Section 28 say that an Abkari Officer drawing a salary of Rs. 20 and above is entitled to search houses? Does not that Regulation authorise Petty Officers who draw Rs. 20 and above up to Rs. 28, numbering about 150, to search houses?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That is the law. That is Section 28. But a Petty Officer should be appointed as an Abkari Officer.

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